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**SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA
FOR THE COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES**

CHARNEKIA FINDLEY, individually, and on
behalf of all others similarly situated,

Plaintiff,

vs.

UNIVERSITY OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA,
a California corporation; USC VERDUGO
HILLS HOSPITAL, a California corporation;
USC VERDUGO HILLS HOSPITAL
FOUNDATION, a California corporation; and
DOES 1 through 10, inclusive,

Defendants

Case No.: 20STCV47290

**FIRST AMENDED CLASS AND
REPRESENTATIVE ACTION
COMPLAINT:**

[Amended As of Right Pursuant to Labor
Code Section 2699.3(2)(C)]

1. Failure to Pay Minimum and Regular Rate Wages [Cal. Lab. Code §§ 204, 1194, 1194.2, and 1197];
2. Failure to Pay Overtime Compensation [Cal. Lab. Code §§ 1194 and 1198];
3. Failure to Provide Meal Periods [Cal. Lab. Code §§ 226.7, 512];
4. Failure to Authorize and Permit Rest Breaks [Cal. Lab. Code §§ 226.7];
5. Failure to Timely Pay Final Wages at Termination [Cal. Lab. Code §§ 201-203];
6. Failure to Provide Accurate Itemized Wage Statements [Cal. Lab. Code § 226]; and
7. Unfair Business Practices [Cal. Bus. & Prof. Code §§ 17200, et seq.].
8. Civil Penalties Under PAGA [Cal. Lab. Code § 2699, et seq.]

DEMAND FOR JURY TRIAL

TABLE OF CONTENTS

INTRODUCTION & PRELIMINARY STATEMENT.....	1
THE PARTIES	3
A. Plaintiff.....	3
B. Defendants.....	3
CLASS ACTION ALLEGATIONS	7
FIRST CAUSE OF ACTION.....	11
SECOND CAUSE OF ACTION.....	12
THIRD CAUSE OF ACTION	14
FOURTH CAUSE OF ACTION.....	14
FIFTH CAUSE OF ACTION.....	15
SIXTH CAUSE OF ACTION.....	16
SEVENTH CAUSE OF ACTION.....	18
EIGHT CAUSE OF ACTION.....	21
PRAYER FOR RELIEF.....	23
DEMAND FOR JURY TRIAL	27

1 Plaintiff Charnekia Findley (“Plaintiff”), based upon facts that either have evidentiary
2 support or are likely to have evidentiary support after a reasonable opportunity for further
3 investigation and discovery, alleges as follows:

4 **INTRODUCTION & PRELIMINARY STATEMENT**

5 1. Plaintiff brings this action against Defendants University of Southern California,
6 USC Verdugo Hills Hospital, USC Verdugo Hills Hospital Foundation, and Does 1 through 10
7 (collectively referred to as “Defendants”) for California Labor Code violations and unfair
8 business practices stemming from Defendants’ failure to pay minimum and regular rate wages,
9 failure to pay overtime wages, failure to provide meal periods, failure to authorize and permit
10 rest periods, failure to maintain accurate records of hours worked and meal periods, failure to
11 timely pay all wages to terminated employees, and failure to furnish accurate wage statements.

12 2. Plaintiff brings the First through Seventh Causes of Action individually and as a class
13 action on behalf of herself and certain current and former employees of Defendants (hereinafter
14 collectively referred to as the “Class” or “Class Members” and defined more fully below). The
15 Class consists of Plaintiff and all other persons who have been employed by any Defendant in
16 California and classified as a non-exempt employee during the statute of limitations period
17 applicable to the claims pleaded here.

18 3. Plaintiff brings the Eighth Cause of Action as a representative action under the
19 California Private Attorney General Act (“PAGA”) to recover civil penalties that are owed to
20 Plaintiff, the State of California, and past and present employees of Defendants (hereinafter
21 referred to as the “Aggrieved Employees”).

22 4. Defendants own/owned and operate/operated an industry, business, and establishment
23 within the State of California, including Los Angeles County. As such, and based upon all the
24 facts and circumstances incident to Defendants’ business in California, Defendants are subject to
25 the California Labor Code, Wage Orders issued by the Industrial Welfare Commission (“IWC”),
26 and the California Business & Professions Code.

27 5. Despite these requirements, throughout the statutory period Defendants maintained a
28 systematic, company-wide policy and practice of:

- 1 (a) Failing to pay employees for all hours worked, including all minimum
2 wages, overtime wages, in compliance with the California Labor Code and
3 IWC Wage Orders;
- 4 (b) Failing to maintain accurate records of the hours employees worked;
- 5 (c) Failing to provide employees with timely and duty-free meal periods in
6 compliance with the California Labor Code and IWC Wage Orders, failing
7 to maintain accurate records of all meal periods taken or missed, and
8 failing to pay an additional hour's pay for each workday a meal period
9 violation occurred;
- 10 (d) Failing to authorize and permit employees to take timely and duty-free rest
11 periods in compliance with the California Labor Code and IWC Wage
12 Orders, and failing to pay an additional hour's pay for each workday a rest
13 period violation occurred;
- 14 (e) Willfully failing to pay employees all minimum wages, overtime wages,
15 meal period premium wages, and rest period premium wages due within
16 the time period specified by California law when employment terminates;
17 and
- 18 (f) Failing to provide employees with accurate, itemized wage statements
19 containing all the information required by the California Labor Code and
20 IWC Wage Orders.

21 6. On information and belief, Defendants, and each of them were on actual and
22 constructive notice of the improprieties alleged herein and intentionally refused to rectify their
23 unlawful policies. Defendants' violations, as alleged above, during all relevant times herein were
24 willful and deliberate.

25 7. At all relevant times, Defendants were and are legally responsible for all of the
26 unlawful conduct, policies, practices, acts and omissions as described in each and all of the
27 foregoing paragraphs as the employer of Plaintiff and the Class. Further, Defendants are
28

1 responsible for each of the unlawful acts or omissions complained of herein under the doctrine of
2 “respondeat superior”.

3 **THE PARTIES**

4 **A. Plaintiff**

5 8. Plaintiff Charnekia Findley is a California resident who worked for Defendants in Los
6 Angeles County, California as a patient care technician from approximately February 2011 to
7 June 2020, whereby she worked 3 days per workweek and 12 hours or more per workday.

8 9. Plaintiff reserve the right to seek leave to amend this complaint to add new plaintiffs,
9 if necessary, in order to establish suitable representative(s) pursuant to *La Sala v. American*
10 *Savings and Loan Association* (1971) 5 Cal.3d 864, 872, and other applicable law.

11 **B. Defendants**

12 10. Plaintiff is informed and believes, and based upon that information and belief
13 alleges, that Defendants University of Southern California, and USC Verdugo Hills Hospital, and
14 USC Verdugo Hills Hospital Foundation are:

- 15 (a) Non-profit California corporations with their principal places of business in
16 Los Angeles, California.
- 17 (b) Business entities conducting business in numerous counties throughout the
18 State of California, including in Los Angeles County; and
- 19 (c) The former employer of Plaintiff, and the current and/or former employer
20 of the putative Class. Defendants suffered and permitted Plaintiff and the
21 Class to work, and/or controlled their wages, hours, or working conditions.

22 11. Plaintiff does not know the true names or capacities of the persons or entities sued
23 herein as Does 1-10, inclusive, and therefore sues said Defendants by such fictitious names.
24 Each of the Doe Defendants was in some manner legally responsible for the damages suffered by
25 Plaintiff and the Class as alleged herein. Plaintiff will amend this complaint to set forth the true
26 names and capacities of these Defendants when they have been ascertained, together with
27 appropriate charging allegations, as may be necessary.
28

1 12. At all times mentioned herein, the Defendants named as Does 1-10, inclusive, and
2 each of them, were residents of, doing business in, availed themselves of the jurisdiction of,
3 and/or injured a significant number of the Plaintiff and the Class in the State of California.

4 13. Plaintiff is informed and believes and thereon alleges that at all relevant times
5 each Defendant, directly or indirectly, or through agents or other persons, employed Plaintiff and
6 the other employees described in the class definitions below, and exercised control over their
7 wages, hours, and working conditions. Plaintiff is informed and believes and thereon alleges
8 that, at all relevant times, each Defendant was the principal, agent, partner, joint venturer, officer,
9 director, controlling shareholder, subsidiary, affiliate, parent corporation, successor in interest
10 and/or predecessor in interest of some or all of the other Defendants, and was engaged with some
11 or all of the other Defendants in a joint enterprise for profit, and bore such other relationships to
12 some or all of the other Defendants so as to be liable for their conduct with respect to the matters
13 alleged below. Plaintiff is informed and believes and thereon alleges that each Defendant acted
14 pursuant to and within the scope of the relationships alleged above, that each Defendant knew or
15 should have known about, and authorized, ratified, adopted, approved, controlled, aided and
16 abetted the conduct of all other Defendants.

17 **ALLEGATIONS COMMON TO ALL CAUSES OF ACTION**

18 14. Plaintiff Charnekia Findley worked for Defendants in Los Angeles County,
19 California as a patient care technician from approximately February 2011 to June 2020. At all
20 times Defendants classified Plaintiff as non-exempt from California's overtime requirements.
21 During the statutory time period, Plaintiff was typically scheduled to work at least 3 days in a
22 workweek, and typically 12 hours of more in a single workday.

23 15. Throughout the statutory period, Defendants failed to pay Plaintiff for all hours
24 worked (including minimum wages and overtime compensation), failed to provide Plaintiff with
25 uninterrupted meal periods, failed to authorize and permit Plaintiff to take uninterrupted rest
26 periods, failed to maintain accurate records of the hours Plaintiff worked, failed to timely pay all
27 final wages to Plaintiff when Defendants terminated Plaintiff's employment, and failed to furnish
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1 accurate wage statements to Plaintiff. As discussed below, Plaintiff's experience working for
2 Defendants was typical and illustrative.

3 16. Throughout the statutory period, Defendants maintained a policy and practice of
4 not paying Plaintiff and the Class for all hours worked, including all overtime wages. Defendants
5 regularly use a system of time rounding in a manner that resulted, over a period of time, in failing
6 to compensate Plaintiff and the Class properly for all the time they have actually worked, even
7 though the realities of Defendants' operations are such that it is possible, practical, and feasible
8 to count and pay for work time to the minute. Also throughout the statutory period, Plaintiff and
9 the Class were required to work off-the-clock. For example, Plaintiff and the Class were
10 required to clock out and continue to work. Further, Defendants maintained a practice of not
11 paying all accrued vacation time upon termination of Plaintiff and the Class's employment. In
12 maintaining a practice of not paying all wages owed, Defendants failed to maintain accurate
13 records of the hours Plaintiff and the Class worked.

14 17. Throughout the statutory period, Defendants have wrongfully failed to provide
15 Plaintiff and the Class with legally compliant meal periods. Defendants regularly, but not
16 always, required Plaintiff and the Class to work in excess of five consecutive hours a day without
17 providing a 30-minute, continuous and uninterrupted, duty-free meal period for every five hours
18 of work, or without compensating Plaintiff and the Class for meal periods that were not provided
19 by the end of the fifth hour of work or tenth hour of work. Defendants did not adequately inform
20 Plaintiff and the Class of their right to take a meal period by the end of the fifth hour of work, or,
21 for shifts greater than 10 hours, by the end of the tenth hour of work. Defendants also did not
22 have adequate policies or practices to document and verify whether Plaintiff and the Class were
23 taking their required meal periods. Accordingly, Defendants' policy and practice was to not
24 provide meal periods to Plaintiff and the Class in compliance with California law.

25 18. Throughout the statutory period, Defendants have wrongfully failed to authorize
26 and permit Plaintiff and the Class to take timely and duty-free rest periods. Defendants regularly,
27 but not always, required Plaintiff and the Class to work in excess of four consecutive hours a day
28 without Defendants authorizing and permitting them to take a 10-minute, continuous and

1 uninterrupted, rest period for every four hours of work (or major fraction of four hours), or
2 without compensating Plaintiff and the Class for rest periods that were not authorized or
3 permitted. Further, Plaintiff and the Class were not authorized to take a third rest period in those
4 instances where they worked in excess of 10 hours per workday. Accordingly, Defendants'
5 policy and practice was to not authorize and permit Plaintiff and the Class to take rest periods in
6 compliance with California law.

7 19. Throughout the statutory period, Defendants willfully failed and refused to timely
8 pay Plaintiff and the Class at the conclusion of their employment all wages, including overtime
9 wages, meal period premium wages, and rest period premium wages.

10 20. Throughout the statutory period, Defendants failed to furnish Plaintiff and the
11 Class with accurate, itemized wage statements showing all applicable hourly rates, and all gross
12 and net wages earned (including correct hours worked, correct wages earned for hours worked,
13 correct overtime hours worked, correct wages for meal periods that were not provided in
14 accordance with California law, and correct wages for rest periods that were not authorized and
15 permitted to take in accordance with California law). As a result of these violations of California
16 Labor Code § 226(a), Plaintiff and the Class suffered injury because, among other things:

- 17 (a) the violations led them to believe that they were not entitled to be paid
18 minimum wages, overtime wages, meal period premium wages, and rest
19 period premium wages to which they were entitled, even though they were
20 entitled;
- 21 (b) the violations led them to believe that they had been paid the minimum,
22 overtime, meal period premium, and rest period premium wages to which
23 they were entitled, even though they had not been;
- 24 (c) the violations led them to believe they were not entitled to be paid
25 minimum, overtime, meal period premium, and rest period premium wages
26 at the correct California rate even though they were;
- 27
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- 1 (d) the violations led them to believe they had been paid minimum, overtime,
2 meal period premium, and rest period premium wages at the correct
3 California rate even though they had not been;
- 4 (e) the violations hindered them from determining the amounts of minimum,
5 overtime, meal period premium, and rest period premium owed to them;
- 6 (f) in connection with their employment before and during this action, and in
7 connection with prosecuting this action, the violations caused them to have
8 to perform mathematical computations to determine the amounts of wages
9 owed to them, computations they would not have to make if the wage
10 statements contained the required accurate information;
- 11 (g) by understating the wages truly due them, the violations caused them to
12 lose entitlement and/or accrual of the full amount of Social Security,
13 disability, unemployment, and other governmental benefits;
- 14 (h) the wage statements inaccurately understated the wages, hours, and wage
15 rates to which Plaintiff and the Class were entitled, and Plaintiff and the
16 Class were paid less than the wages and wage rates to which they were
17 entitled.

18 Thus, Plaintiff and the Class are owed the amounts provided for in California Labor Code §
19 226(e).

20 **CLASS ACTION ALLEGATIONS**

21 21. Plaintiff bring certain claims individually, as well as on behalf of each and all
22 other persons similarly situated, and thus, seeks class certification under California Code of Civil
23 Procedure § 382.

24 22. All claims alleged herein arise under California law for which Plaintiff seeks relief
25 authorized by California law.

26 23. The proposed Class consists of and is defined as:

27 All persons who worked for any Defendants in California as an hourly-paid,
28 non-exempt employee at any time during the period beginning four years before

1 the filing of the initial complaint in this action and ending when notice to the
2 Class is sent.

24. At all material times, Plaintiff was a member of the Class.

3 25. Plaintiff undertakes this concerted activity to improve the wages and working
4 conditions of all Class Members.

5 26. There is a well-defined community of interest in the litigation and the Class is readily
6 ascertainable:

7 (a) Numerosity: The members of the Class (and each subclass, if any) are so
8 numerous that joinder of all members would be unfeasible and impractical.
9 The membership of the entire Class is unknown to Plaintiff at this time,
10 however, the Class is estimated to be greater than 100 individuals and the
11 identity of such membership is readily ascertainable by inspection of
12 Defendants' records.

13 (b) Typicality: Plaintiff is qualified to, and will, fairly and adequately protect
14 the interests of each Class Member with whom there is a shared, well-
15 defined community of interest, and Plaintiff claims (or defenses, if any) are
16 typical of all Class Members' claims as demonstrated herein.

17 (c) Adequacy: Plaintiff is qualified to, and will, fairly and adequately protect
18 the interests of each Class Member with whom there is a shared, well-
19 defined community of interest and typicality of claims, as demonstrated
20 herein. Plaintiff has no conflicts with or interests antagonistic to any Class
21 Member. Plaintiff's attorneys, the proposed class counsel, are versed in
22 the rules governing class action discovery, certification, and settlement.
23 Plaintiff has incurred, and throughout the duration of this action, will
24 continue to incur costs and attorneys' fees that have been, are, and will be
25 necessarily expended for the prosecution of this action for the substantial
26 benefit of each class member.

27 (d) Superiority: A Class Action is superior to other available methods for the
28

1 fair and efficient adjudication of the controversy, including consideration
2 of:

- 3 1) The interests of the members of the Class in individually
4 controlling the prosecution or defense of separate actions;
- 5 2) The extent and nature of any litigation concerning the controversy
6 already commenced by or against members of the Class;
- 7 3) The desirability or undesirability of concentrating the litigation of
8 the claims in the particular forum; and
- 9 4) The difficulties likely to be encountered in the management of a
10 class action.

11 (e) Public Policy Considerations: The public policy of the State of California
12 is to resolve the California Labor Code claims of many employees through
13 a class action. Indeed, current employees are often afraid to assert their
14 rights out of fear of direct or indirect retaliation. Former employees are
15 also fearful of bringing actions because they believe their former
16 employers might damage their future endeavors through negative
17 references and/or other means. Class actions provide the class members
18 who are not named in the complaint with a type of anonymity that allows
19 for the vindication of their rights at the same time as their privacy is
20 protected.

21 27. There are common questions of law and fact as to the Class (and each subclass, if any)
22 that predominate over questions affecting only individual members, including without limitation,
23 whether, as alleged herein, Defendants have:

- 24 (a) Failed to pay Class Members for all hours worked, including minimum
25 wages, and overtime wages;
- 26 (b) Failed to provide meal periods and pay meal period premium wages to
27 Class Members;
- 28 (c) Failed to authorize and permit rest periods and pay rest period premium

wages to Class Members;

(d) Failed to promptly pay all wages due to Class Members upon their discharge or resignation;

(e) Failed to provide Class Members with accurate wages statements;

(f) Failed to maintain accurate records of all hours Class Members worked, and all meal periods Class Members took or missed; and

(g) Violated California Business & Professions Code §§ 17200 *et. seq.* as a result of their illegal conduct as described above.

28. This Court should permit this action to be maintained as a class action pursuant to California Code of Civil Procedure § 382 because:

(a) The questions of law and fact common to the Class predominate over any question affecting only individual members;

(b) A class action is superior to any other available method for the fair and efficient adjudication of the claims of the members of the Class;

(c) The members of the Class are so numerous that it is impractical to bring all members of the class before the Court;

(d) Plaintiff, and the other members of the Class, will not be able to obtain effective and economic legal redress unless the action is maintained as a class action;

(e) There is a community of interest in obtaining appropriate legal and equitable relief for the statutory violations, and in obtaining adequate compensation for the damages and injuries for which Defendants are responsible in an amount sufficient to adequately compensate the members of the Class for the injuries sustained;

(f) Without class certification, the prosecution of separate actions by individual members of the class would create a risk of:

1) Inconsistent or varying adjudications with respect to individual members of the Class which would establish incompatible standards

of conduct for Defendants; and/or

- 2) Adjudications with respect to the individual members which would, as a practical matter, be dispositive of the interests of other members not parties to the adjudications, or would substantially impair or impede their ability to protect their interests, including but not limited to the potential for exhausting the funds available from those parties who are, or may be, responsible Defendants; and,

- (g) Defendants have acted or refused to act on grounds generally applicable to the Class, thereby making final injunctive relief appropriate with respect to the class as a whole.

29. Plaintiff contemplates the eventual issuance of notice to the proposed members of the Class that would set forth the subject and nature of the instant action. The Defendants' own business records may be utilized for assistance in the preparation and issuance of the contemplated notices. To the extent that any further notices may be required, Plaintiff would contemplate the use of additional techniques and forms commonly used in class actions, such as published notice, e-mail notice, website notice, first-class mail, or combinations thereof, or by other methods suitable to the Class and deemed necessary and/or appropriate by the Court.

FIRST CAUSE OF ACTION

(Against all Defendants for Failure to Pay Minimum Wages for All Hours Worked)

30. Plaintiff incorporates by reference and re-alleges as if fully stated herein paragraphs 1 through 20 in this First Amended Complaint.

31. "Hours worked" is the time during which an employee is subject to the control of an employer, and includes all the time the employee is suffered or permitted to work, whether or not required to do so.

32. At all relevant times herein mentioned, Defendants knowingly failed to pay to Plaintiff and the Class compensation for all hours they worked. By their failure to pay compensation for each hour worked as alleged above, Defendants willfully violated the

provisions of Section 1194 of the California Labor Code, and any additional applicable Wage Orders, which require such compensation to non-exempt employees.

33. Accordingly, Plaintiff and the Class are entitled to recover minimum wages for all non-overtime hours worked for Defendants.

34. By and through the conduct described above, Plaintiff and the Class have been deprived of their rights to be paid wages earned by virtue of their employment with Defendants.

35. By virtue of the Defendants' unlawful failure to pay additional compensation to Plaintiff and the Class for their non-overtime hours worked without pay, Plaintiff and the Class suffered, and will continue to suffer, damages in amounts which are presently unknown to Plaintiff and the Class, but which exceed the jurisdictional minimum of this Court, and which will be ascertained according to proof at trial.

36. By failing to keep adequate time records required by California Labor Code § 1174(d), Defendants have made it difficult to calculate the full extent of minimum wage compensation due Plaintiff and the Class.

37. Pursuant to California Labor Code section 1194.2, Plaintiff and the Class are entitled to recover liquidated damages (double damages) for Defendants' failure to pay minimum wages.

38. California Labor Code section 204 requires employers to provide employees with all wages due and payable twice a month. Throughout the statute of limitations period applicable to this cause of action, Plaintiff and the Class were entitled to be paid twice a month at rates required by law, including minimum wages. However, during all such times, Defendants systematically failed and refused to pay Plaintiff and the Class all such wages due, and failed to pay those wages twice a month.

39. Plaintiff and the Class are also entitled to seek recovery of all unpaid minimum wages, interest, and reasonable attorneys' fees and costs pursuant to California Labor Code §§ 218.5, 218.6, and 1194(a).

SECOND CAUSE OF ACTION

(Against all Defendants for Failure to Pay Overtime Wages)

1 40. Plaintiff incorporates by reference and re-alleges as if fully stated herein
2 paragraphs 1 through 20 in this First Amended Complaint.

3 41. California Labor Code § 510 provides that employees in California shall not be
4 employed more than eight (8) hours in any workday or forty (40) hours in a workweek unless
5 they receive additional compensation beyond their regular wages in amounts specified by law.

6 42. California Labor Code §§ 1194 and 1198 provide that employees in California
7 shall not be employed more than eight hours in any workday unless they receive additional
8 compensation beyond their regular wages in amounts specified by law. Additionally, California
9 Labor Code § 1198 states that the employment of an employee for longer hours than those fixed
10 by the Industrial Welfare Commission is unlawful.

11 43. At all times relevant hereto, Plaintiff and the Class have worked more than eight
12 hours in a workday, as employees of Defendants.

13 44. At all times relevant hereto, Defendants failed to pay Plaintiff and the Class
14 overtime compensation for the hours they have worked in excess of the maximum hours
15 permissible by law as required by California Labor Code § 510 and 1198. Plaintiff and the Class
16 are regularly required to work overtime hours.

17 45. By virtue of Defendants' unlawful failure to pay additional premium rate
18 compensation to the Plaintiff and the Class for their overtime hours worked, Plaintiff and the
19 Class have suffered, and will continue to suffer, damages in amounts which are presently
20 unknown to them but which exceed the jurisdictional minimum of this Court and which will be
21 ascertained according to proof at trial.

22 46. By failing to keep adequate time records required by Labor Code § 1174(d),
23 Defendants have made it difficult to calculate the full extent of overtime compensation due to
24 Plaintiff and the Class.

25 47. Plaintiff and the Class also request recovery of overtime compensation according
26 to proof, interest, attorneys' fees and costs pursuant to California Labor Code § 1194(a), as well
27 as the assessment of any statutory penalties against Defendants, in a sum as provided by the
28 California Labor Code and/or other statutes.

1 48. California Labor Code § 204 requires employers to provide employees with all
2 wages due and payable twice a month. The Wage Orders also provide that every employer shall
3 pay to each employee, on the established payday for the period involved, overtime wages for all
4 overtime hours worked in the payroll period. Defendants failed to provide Plaintiff and the Class
5 with all compensation due, in violation of California Labor Code § 204.

6 **THIRD CAUSE OF ACTION**

7 **(Against All Defendants for Failure to Provide Meal Periods)**

8 49. Plaintiff incorporates by reference and re-alleges as if fully stated herein
9 paragraphs 1 through 20 in this First Amended Complaint.

10 50. Under California law, Defendants have an affirmative obligation to relieve the
11 Plaintiff and the Class of all duty in order to take their first daily meal periods no later than the
12 start of Plaintiff and the Class' sixth hour of work in a workday, and to take their second meal
13 periods no later than the start of the eleventh hour of work in the workday. Section 512 of the
14 California Labor Code, and Section 11 of the applicable Wage Orders require that an employer
15 provide unpaid meal periods of at least 30 minutes for each five-hour period worked. It is a
16 violation of Section 226.7 of the California Labor Code for an employer to require any employee
17 to work during any meal period mandated under any Wage Order.

18 51. Despite these legal requirements, Defendants regularly failed to provide Plaintiff
19 and the Class with both meal periods as required by California law. By their failure to permit
20 and authorize Plaintiff and the Class to take all meal periods as alleged above (or due to the fact
21 that Defendants made it impossible or impracticable to take these uninterrupted meal periods),
22 Defendants willfully violated the provisions of Section 226.7 of the California Labor Code and
23 the applicable Wage Orders.

24 52. Under California law, Plaintiff and the Class are entitled to be paid one hour of
25 additional wages for each workday he or she was not provided with all required meal period(s),
26 plus interest thereon.

27 **FOURTH CAUSE OF ACTION**

28 **(Against All Defendants for Failure to Authorize and Permit Rest Periods)**

53. Plaintiff incorporates by reference and re-alleges as if fully stated herein paragraphs 1 through 20 in this First Amended Complaint.

54. Defendants are required by California law to authorize and permit breaks of 10 uninterrupted minutes for each four hours of work or major fraction of four hours (i.e. more than two hours). Section 512 of the California Labor Code, the applicable Wage Orders require that the employer permit and authorize all employees to take paid rest periods of 10 minutes each for each 4-hour period worked. Thus, for example, if an employee's work time is 6 hours and ten minutes, the employee is entitled to two rest breaks. Each failure to authorize rest breaks as so required is itself a violation of California's rest break laws. It is a violation of Section 226.7 of the California Labor Code for an employer to require any employee to work during any rest period mandated under any Wage Order.

55. Despite these legal requirements, Defendants failed to authorize Plaintiff and the Class to take rest breaks, regardless of whether employees worked more than 4 hours in a workday. By their failure to permit and authorize Plaintiff and the Class to take rest periods as alleged above (or due to the fact that Defendants made it impossible or impracticable to take these uninterrupted rest periods), Defendants willfully violated the provisions of Section 226.7 of the California Labor Code and the applicable Wage Orders.

56. Under California law, Plaintiff and the Class are entitled to be paid one hour of premium wages rate for each workday he or she was not provided with all required rest break(s), plus interest thereon.

FIFTH CAUSE OF ACTION

(Against all Defendants for Failure to Pay Wages of Discharged Employees – Waiting Time Penalties)

57. Plaintiff incorporates by reference and re-allege as if fully stated herein paragraphs 1 through 20 in this First Amended Complaint.

58. At all times herein set forth, California Labor Code §§ 201 and 202 provide that if an employer discharges an employee, the wages earned and unpaid at the time of discharge are due and payable immediately, and that if an employee voluntarily leaves his or her employment,

1 his or her wages shall become due and payable not later than seventy-two (72) hours thereafter,
2 unless the employee has given seventy-two (72) hours previous notice of his or her intention to
3 quit, in which case the employee is entitled to his or her wages at the time of quitting.

4 59. Within the applicable statute of limitations, the employment of Plaintiff and many
5 other members of the Class ended, i.e. was terminated by quitting or discharge, and the
6 employment of others will be. However, during the relevant time period, Defendants failed, and
7 continue to fail to pay terminated Class Members, without abatement, all wages required to be
8 paid by California Labor Code sections 201 and 202 either at the time of discharge, or within
9 seventy-two (72) hours of their leaving Defendants' employ.

10 60. Defendants' failure to pay Plaintiff and those Class members who are no longer
11 employed by Defendants their wages earned and unpaid at the time of discharge, or within
12 seventy-two (72) hours of their leaving Defendants' employ, is in violation of California Labor
13 Code §§ 201 and 202.

14 61. California Labor Code § 203 provides that if an employer willfully fails to pay
15 wages owed, in accordance with sections 201 and 202, then the wages of the employee shall
16 continue as a penalty wage from the due date, and at the same rate until paid or until an action is
17 commenced; but the wages shall not continue for more than thirty (30) days.

18 62. Plaintiff and the Class are entitled to recover from Defendants their additionally
19 accruing wages for each day they were not paid, at their regular hourly rate of pay, up to 30 days
20 maximum pursuant to California Labor Code § 203.

21 63. Pursuant to California Labor Code §§ 218.5, 218.6 and 1194, Plaintiff and the
22 Class are also entitled to an award of reasonable attorneys' fees, interest, expenses, and costs
23 incurred in this action.

24 **SIXTH CAUSE OF ACTION**

25 **(Against all Defendants for Failure to Provide and Maintain Accurate and** 26 **Compliant Wage Records)**

27 64. Plaintiff incorporates by reference and re-alleges as if fully stated herein
28 paragraphs 1 through 20 in this First Amended Complaint.

1 65. At all material times set forth herein, California Labor Code § 226(a) provides that
2 every employer shall furnish each of his or her employees an accurate itemized wage statement
3 in writing showing nine pieces of information, including: (1) gross wages earned, (2) total hours
4 worked by the employee, (3) the number of piece-rate units earned and any applicable piece rate
5 if the employee is paid on a piece-rate basis, (4) all deductions, provided that all deductions made
6 on written orders of the employee may be aggregated and shown as one item, (5) net wages
7 earned, (6) the inclusive dates of the period for which the employee is paid, (7) the name of the
8 employee and the last four digits of his or her social security number or an employee
9 identification number other than a social security number, (8) the name and address of the legal
10 entity that is the employer, and (9) all applicable hourly rates in effect during the pay period and
11 the corresponding number of hours worked at each hourly rate by the employee.

12 66. Defendants have intentionally and willfully failed to provide employees with
13 complete and accurate wage statements. The deficiencies include, among other things, the
14 failure to correctly identify the gross wages earned by Plaintiff and the Class, the failure to list
15 the true “total hours worked by the employee,” and the failure to list the true net wages earned.

16 67. As a result of Defendants’ violation of California Labor Code § 226(a), Plaintiff
17 and the Class have suffered injury and damage to their statutorily-protected rights.

18 68. Specifically, Plaintiff and the members of the Class have been injured by
19 Defendants’ intentional violation of California Labor Code § 226(a) because they were denied
20 both their legal right to receive, and their protected interest in receiving, accurate, itemized wage
21 statements under California Labor Code § 226(a).

22 69. Calculation of the true wage entitlement for Plaintiff and the Class is difficult and
23 time consuming. As a result of this unlawful burden, Plaintiff and the Class were also injured as
24 a result of having to bring this action to attempt to obtain correct wage information following
25 Defendants’ refusal to comply with many of the mandates of California’s Labor Code and related
26 laws and regulations.

70. Plaintiff and the Class are entitled to recover from Defendants the greater of their actual damages caused by Defendants' failure to comply with California Labor Code § 226(a), or an aggregate penalty not exceeding four thousand dollars per employee.

71. Plaintiff and the Class are also entitled to injunctive relief, as well as an award of attorney's fees and costs to ensure compliance with this section, pursuant to California Labor Code § 226(h).

SEVENTH CAUSE OF ACTION

(Against all Defendants for Violation of California Business & Professions Code §§ 17200, et seq.)

72. Plaintiff incorporates by reference and re-alleges as if fully stated herein paragraphs 1 through 20 in this First Amended Complaint.

73. Defendants, and each of them, are “persons” as defined under California Business & Professions Code § 17201.

74. Defendants' conduct, as alleged herein, has been, and continues to be, unfair, unlawful, and harmful to Plaintiff, other Class members, and to the general public. Plaintiff seeks to enforce important rights affecting the public interest within the meaning of Code of Civil Procedure § 1021.5.

75. Defendants' activities, as alleged herein, are violations of California law, and constitute unlawful business acts and practices in violation of California Business & Professions Code §§ 17200, *et seq.*

76. A violation of California Business & Professions Code §§ 17200, *et seq.* may be predicated on the violation of any state or federal law. All of the acts described herein as violations of, among other things, the California Labor Code, are unlawful and in violation of public policy; and in addition are immoral, unethical, oppressive, fraudulent and unscrupulous, and thereby constitute unfair, unlawful and/or fraudulent business practices in violation of California Business & Professions Code §§ 17200, *et seq.*

Failure to Pay Minimum Wages

77. Defendants' failure to pay minimum wages, and other benefits in violation of the

1 California Labor Code constitutes unlawful and/or unfair activity prohibited by California
2 Business & Professions Code §§ 17200, *et seq.*

3 **Failure to Pay Overtime Wages**

4 78. Defendants' failure to pay overtime compensation and other benefits in violation of
5 California Labor Code §§ 510, 1194, and 1198 constitutes unlawful and/or unfair activity
6 prohibited by California Business & Professions Code §§ 17200, *et seq.*

7 **Failure to Maintain Accurate Records of All Hours Worked**

8 79. Defendants' failure to maintain accurate records of all hours worked in accordance
9 with California Labor Code § 1174.5 and the IWC Wage Orders constitutes unlawful and/or
10 unfair activity prohibited by California Business & Professions Code §§ 17200, *et seq.*

11 **Failure to Provide Meal Periods**

12 80. Defendants' failure to provide meal periods in accordance with California Labor Code
13 §§ 226.7 and 512, and the IWC Wage Orders, as alleged above, constitutes unlawful and/or
14 unfair activity prohibited by California Business & Professions Code §§ 17200, *et seq.*

15 **Failure to Maintain Accurate Records of Meal Periods**

16 81. Defendants' failure to maintain accurate records of employee meal periods in
17 accordance with California Labor Code § 226.7 and the IWC Wage Orders, as alleged above,
18 constitutes unlawful and/or unfair activity prohibited by California Business & Professions Code
19 §§ 17200, *et seq.*

20 **Failure to Authorize and Permit Rest Periods**

21 82. Defendants' failure to authorize and permit rest periods in accordance with California
22 Labor Code § 226.7 and the IWC Wage Orders, as alleged above, constitutes unlawful and/or
23 unfair activity prohibited by Business and Professions Code §§ 17200, *et seq.*

24 **Failure to Provide Accurate Itemized Wage Statements**

25 83. Defendants' failure to provide accurate itemized wage statements in accordance
26 with California Labor Code § 226, as alleged above, constitutes unlawful and/or unfair activity
27 prohibited by California Business & Professions Code §§ 17200, *et seq.*

1 84. By and through their unfair, unlawful and/or fraudulent business practices
2 described herein, the Defendants, have obtained valuable property, money and services from
3 Plaintiff, and all persons similarly situated, and have deprived Plaintiff, and all persons similarly
4 situated, of valuable rights and benefits guaranteed by law, all to their detriment.

5 85. Plaintiff and the Class Members suffered monetary injury as a direct result of
6 Defendants' wrongful conduct.

7 86. Plaintiff, individually, and on behalf of members of the putative Class, are entitled
8 to, and do, seek such relief as may be necessary to disgorge money and/or property which the
9 Defendants have wrongfully acquired, or of which Plaintiff and the Class have been deprived, by
10 means of the above-described unfair, unlawful and/or fraudulent business practices. Plaintiff and
11 the Class are not obligated to establish individual knowledge of the wrongful practices of
12 Defendants in order to recover restitution.

13 87. Plaintiff, individually, and on behalf of members of the putative class, are further
14 entitled to and do seek a declaration that the above described business practices are unfair,
15 unlawful and/or fraudulent, and injunctive relief restraining the Defendants, and each of them,
16 from engaging in any of the above-described unfair, unlawful and/or fraudulent business
17 practices in the future.

18 88. Plaintiff, individually, and on behalf of members of the putative class, have no
19 plain, speedy, and/or adequate remedy at law to redress the injuries which the Class Members
20 suffered as a consequence of the Defendants' unfair, unlawful and/or fraudulent business
21 practices. As a result of the unfair, unlawful and/or fraudulent business practices described
22 above, Plaintiff, individually, and on behalf of members of the putative Class, suffered and will
23 continue to suffer irreparable harm unless the Defendants, and each of them, are restrained from
24 continuing to engage in said unfair, unlawful and/or fraudulent business practices.

25 89. Plaintiff also alleges that if Defendants are not enjoined from the conduct set forth
26 herein above, they will continue to avoid paying the appropriate taxes, insurance and other
27 withholdings.
28

90. Pursuant to California Business & Professions Code §§ 17200, *et seq.*, Plaintiff and putative Class Members are entitled to restitution of the wages withheld and retained by Defendants during a period that commences four years prior to the filing of this complaint; a permanent injunction requiring Defendants to pay all outstanding wages due to Plaintiff and Class Members; an award of attorneys' fees pursuant to California Code of Civil Procedure § 1021.5 and other applicable laws; and an award of costs.

EIGHT CAUSE OF ACTION

(Against all Defendants for Civil Penalties Under the Private Attorneys General Act of 2004, Cal. Lab. Code § 2698 et seq.)

91. Plaintiff incorporates by reference and re-allege as if fully stated herein paragraphs 1 through 20 in this First Amended Complaint.

92. At all times herein mentioned, Defendants were subject to the Labor Code of the State of California and the applicable Industrial Welfare Commission Orders.

93. California Labor Code § 2699(a) specifically provides for a private right of action to recover penalties for violations of the Labor Code: “Notwithstanding any other provision of law, any provision of this code that provides for a civil penalty to be assessed and collected by the Labor and Workforce Development Agency or any of its departments, divisions, commissions, boards, agencies, or employees, for a violation of this code, may, as an alternative, be recovered through a civil action brought by an aggrieved employee on behalf of himself or herself and other current or former employees pursuant to the procedures specified in Section 2699.3.”

94. Plaintiff has exhausted her administrative remedies pursuant to California Labor Code § 2699.3. On November 15, 2020, Plaintiff gave written notice by online filing to the Labor and Workforce Development Agency and by certified mail to Defendants of the specific provisions of the Labor Code that Defendants have violated against Plaintiff and current and former aggrieved employees, including the facts and theories to support the violations. Plaintiff's PAGA case numbers is Case No. LWDA-CM-812620-20. At the time of this filing, 65 days has elapsed since Plaintiff provided notice, but the Labor and Workforce Development

1 Agency has not indicated that it intends to investigate Defendants' Labor Code violations
2 discussed in the notice. Accordingly, Plaintiff may commence a civil action to recover penalties
3 under Labor Code § 2699 pursuant to § 2699.3 for the violations of the Labor Code described in
4 this Complaint. These penalties include, but are not limited to, penalties under California Labor
5 Code §§ 210, 226.3, 558, 1197.1, and 2699(f)(2).

6 95. In addition, Plaintiff seeks penalties for Defendants' violation of California Labor
7 Code § 1174(d). Pursuant to California Labor Code § 1174.5, any person, including any entity,
8 employing labor who willfully fails to maintain accurate and complete records required by
9 California Labor Code § 1174 is subject to a penalty under § 1174.5. Pursuant to the applicable
10 IWC Order § 7(A)(3), every employer shall keep time records showing when the employee
11 begins and ends each work period. Meal periods, and total hours worked daily shall also be
12 recorded. Additionally, pursuant to the applicable IWC Order § 7(A)(5), every employer shall
13 keep total hours worked in the payroll period and applicable rates of pay.

14 96. During the time period of employment for Plaintiff and the Aggrieved Employees,
15 Defendants failed to maintain records pursuant to the Labor Code and IWC Orders by failing to
16 maintain accurate records showing meal periods, and accurate records showing when employees
17 begin and end each work period. Defendants' failure to provide and maintain records required by
18 the Labor Code IWC Wage Orders deprived Plaintiff and the Aggrieved Employees the ability to
19 know, understand and question the accuracy and frequency of meal periods, and the accuracy of
20 their hours worked stated in Defendants' records. Therefore, Plaintiff and the Aggrieved
21 Employees had no way to dispute the resulting failure to pay wages, all of which resulted in an
22 unjustified economic enrichment to Defendants. As a direct result, Plaintiff and the Aggrieved
23 Employees have suffered and continue to suffer, substantial losses related to the use and
24 enjoyment of such wages, lost interest on such wages and expenses and attorney's fees in seeking
25 to compel Defendants to fully perform its obligation under state law, all to their respective
26 damage in amounts according to proof at trial. Because of Defendants' knowing failure to
27 comply with the Labor Code and applicable IWC Wage Orders, Plaintiff and the Aggrieved
28

1 Employees have also suffered an injury in that they were prevented from knowing,
2 understanding, and disputing the wage payments paid to them.

3 97. Based on the conduct described in this First Amended Complaint, Plaintiff is
4 entitled to an award of civil penalties on behalf of herself self, the State of California, and
5 similarly Aggrieved Employees of Defendants. The exact amount of the applicable penalties, in
6 all, is in an amount to be shown according to proof at trial. These penalties are in addition to all
7 other remedies permitted by law.

8 98. In addition, Plaintiff seeks an award of reasonable attorney's fees and costs
9 pursuant to California Labor Code § 2699(g)(1), which states, "Any employee who prevails in
10 any action shall be entitled to an award of reasonable attorney's fees and costs."

11 **PRAYER FOR RELIEF**

12 Plaintiff, individually, and on behalf of all others similarly situated only with respect to
13 the class claims, pray for relief and judgment against Defendants, jointly and severally, as
14 follows:

15 **Class Certification**

- 16 1. That this action be certified as a class action with respect to the First, Second,
17 Third, Fourth, Fifth, Sixth, and Eighth Causes of Action;
18 2. That Plaintiff be appointed as the representative of the Class; and
19 3. That counsel for Plaintiff be appointed as Class Counsel.

20 **As to the First Cause of Action**

- 21 4. That the Court declare, adjudge and decree that Defendants violated California Labor
22 Code §§ 204 and 1194 and applicable IWC Wage Orders by willfully failing to pay all minimum
23 wages due;
24 5. For general unpaid wages as may be appropriate;
25 6. For pre-judgment interest on any unpaid compensation commencing from the date
26 such amounts were due;
27 7. For liquidated damages;
28 8. For reasonable attorneys' fees and for costs of suit incurred herein pursuant to

1 California Labor Code § 1194(a); and,

2 9. For such other and further relief as the Court may deem equitable and appropriate.

3 As to the Second Cause of Action

4 10. That the Court declare, adjudge and decree that Defendants violated California Labor
5 Code §§ 510 and 1198 and applicable IWC Wage Orders by willfully failing to pay all overtime
6 wages due;

7 11. For general unpaid wages at overtime wage rates as may be appropriate;

8 12. For pre-judgment interest on any unpaid overtime compensation commencing from
9 the date such amounts were due;

10 13. For reasonable attorneys' fees and for costs of suit incurred herein pursuant to
11 California Labor Code § 1194(a); and,

12 14. For such other and further relief as the Court may deem equitable and appropriate.

13 As to the Third Cause of Action

14 15. That the Court declare, adjudge and decree that Defendants violated California Labor
15 Code §§ 226.7 and 512, and the IWC Wage Orders;

16 16. For unpaid meal period premium wages as may be appropriate;

17 17. For pre-judgment interest on any unpaid compensation commencing from the date
18 such amounts were due;

19 18. For reasonable attorneys' fees under California Code of Civil Procedure § 1021.5, and
20 for costs of suit incurred herein; and

21 19. For such other and further relief as the Court may deem equitable and appropriate.

22 As to the Fourth Cause of Action

23 20. That the Court declare, adjudge and decree that Defendants violated California Labor
24 Code §§ 226.7 and 512, and the IWC Wage Orders;

25 21. For unpaid rest period premium wages as may be appropriate;

26 22. For pre-judgment interest on any unpaid compensation commencing from the date
27 such amounts were due;

23. For reasonable attorneys' fees under California Code of Civil Procedure § 1021.5, and for costs of suit incurred herein; and

24. For such other and further relief as the Court may deem equitable and appropriate.

As to the Fifth Cause of Action

25. That the Court declare, adjudge and decree that Defendants violated California Labor Code §§ 201, 202, and 203 by willfully failing to pay all compensation owed at the time of termination of the employment;

26. For statutory wage penalties pursuant to California Labor Code § 203 for former employees who have left Defendants' employ;

27. For pre-judgment interest on any unpaid wages from the date such amounts were due;

28. For reasonable attorneys' fees and for costs of suit incurred herein; and

29. For such other and further relief as the Court may deem equitable and appropriate.

As to the Sixth Cause of Action

30. That the Court declare, adjudge and decree that Defendants violated the record keeping provisions of California Labor Code § 226(a) and applicable IWC Wage Orders, and willfully failed to provide accurate itemized wage statements thereto;

31. For statutory penalties and actual damages pursuant to California Labor Code § 226(e);

32. For injunctive relief to ensure compliance with this section, pursuant to California Labor Code § 226(h);

33. For reasonable attorneys' fees and for costs of suit incurred herein; and

34. For such other and further relief as the Court may deem equitable and appropriate.

As to the Seventh Cause of Action

35. That the Court declare, adjudge and decree that Defendants violated California Business & Professions Code §§ 17200, *et seq.* by failing to pay wages for all hours worked (including minimum and overtime wages), failing to provide meal periods, failing to maintain accurate records of meal periods, failing to authorize and permit rest periods, failing to maintain

1 accurate records of all hours worked and meal periods, and failing to furnish accurate wage
2 statements;

3 36. For restitution of unpaid wages to Plaintiff and all Class Members and prejudgment
4 interest from the day such amounts were due and payable;

5 37. For the appointment of a receiver to receive, manage and distribute any and all funds
6 disgorged from Defendants and determined to have been wrongfully acquired by Defendants as a
7 result of violations of California Business & Professions Code §§ 17200 *et seq.*;

8 38. For reasonable attorneys' fees and costs of suit incurred herein pursuant to California
9 Code of Civil Procedure § 1021.5;

10 39. For injunctive relief to ensure compliance with this section, pursuant to California
11 Business & Professions Code §§ 17200, *et seq.*; and,

12 40. For such other and further relief as the Court may deem equitable and appropriate.

13 As to the Eight Cause of Action

14 41. That the Court declare, adjudge and decree that Defendants violated the California
15 Labor Code by failing to pay wages for all hours worked (including minimum, straight time, and
16 overtime wages), failing to provide meal periods, failing to maintain accurate records of meal
17 periods, failing to authorize and permit rest periods, failing to maintain accurate records of all
18 hours worked and meal periods, failing to indemnify necessary business expenses, failing to pay
19 final wages at termination, and failing to furnish accurate wage statements;

20 42. For all actual, consequential and incidental losses and damages, according to proof;

21 43. For all civil penalties pursuant to California Labor Code § 2699, *et seq.*, and all other
22 applicable Labor Code provisions;

23 44. For reasonable attorneys' fees and costs of suit incurred herein pursuant to California
24 Labor Code § 2699;

25 45. For such other and further relief as the Court may deem equitable and appropriate

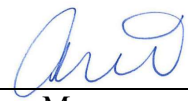
26 As to all Causes of Action

27 46. For any additional relief that the Court deems just and proper.
28

1 Dated: February 24, 2021

Respectfully submitted,

2 MOON & YANG, APC

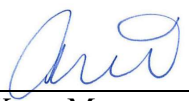
3 By: 
4 Kane Moon
5 H. Scott Leviant
6 Ani Martirosian
7 Attorneys for Plaintiff

8 **DEMAND FOR JURY TRIAL**

9 Plaintiff demands a trial by jury as to all causes of action triable by jury.

10 Dated: February 24, 2021

MOON & YANG, APC

11 By: 
12 Kane Moon
13 H. Scott Leviant
14 Ani Martirosian
15 Attorneys for Plaintiff

1 **PROOF OF SERVICE**

2 STATE OF CALIFORNIA)
3) ss
4 COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES)

5 I am employed in the county of Los Angeles, State of California. I am over the age of 18
6 and not a party to the within action; my business address is 1055 West Seventh Street, Suite
7 1880, Los Angeles, California 90017. On February 24, 2021, I served the foregoing document
8 described as:

9 **FIRST AMENDED CLASS AND REPRESENTATIVE ACTION COMPLAINT:**

10 X by placing ___ the original X a true copy thereof enclosed in sealed envelope(s)
11 addressed as follows:

12 Thomas R. Kaufman
13 Paul Berkowitz
14 Michael T. Campbell
15 **SHEPPARD, MULLIN, RICHTER & HAMPTON LLP**
16 1910 Avenue of the Stars, Suite 1600
17 Los Angeles, CA 90067-6055
18 tkaufman@sheppardmullin.com
19 pberkowitz@sheppardmullin.com
20 mcampbell@sheppardmullin.com

21 *Attorney for Defendants*

22 [✓] **BY ELECTRONIC SERVICE:** Based on a court order or an agreement of the parties
23 to accept electronic service, I caused the documents to be sent to the persons at the
24 electronic service addresses listed above via third-party cloud service **CASEANYWHERE**.

25 X (State) I declare under penalty of perjury under the laws of the State of
26 California that the above is true and correct.

27 Executed on February 24, 2021, at Los Angeles, California.

28 Jessica Reyes Flores

Name


Signature